

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PLACES

10 December 2014

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY

COMMITTEE – PLACES

PROGRESS REPORT OF THE FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

WORKING GROUP

1. The Purpose of the Report

To inform the Committee of the progress made by the Flood Risk Management Working Group.

2. Information and Analysis

The scrutiny of Flood Management is a requirement of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. The I & S Committee – Places is responsible for ensuring the effective scrutiny of service provision in relation to flood management. To carry out this work the Committee appointed Members (Cllrs Lauro, Southerd, D. Williams, Spencer and Atkins) to a standing working group at its meeting on 3 July 2013.

Following Councillor Southerd's appointment to the position of Deputy Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Infrastructure Councillor Southerd has stepped down from the I&S Places Committee and the Flood Risk Management Working Group. Therefore there is now an opportunity for the Committee to appoint a new Member to the Flood Risk Management Working Group.

On 7 October 2014 the working group met for the second time, with James Biddlestone (Senior Project Engineer) and Victoria Raiment (Senior Technician). The purpose of the meeting was for Members to feedback their comments on an early draft of the Flood Risk Management Strategy (FRMS) for Derbyshire. Following the meeting the Flood Team in the Economy, Transport and Environment Department have taken in to account the comments made by Members and have continued to develop the FRMS.

Further work

The working group will meet on 19 January to consider a final draft of the FRMS before it goes out for public consultation in February 2015.

After the twelve week consultation period the working group will reconvene to consider the consultation responses and identify appropriate amendments to the Strategy.

Further working group meeting dates will be identified in due course to ensure the on-going scrutiny of the implementation of the Strategy and all flood risk management activities carried out within Derbyshire.

3. Considerations

The relevance of the following factors has been considered in preparing this report; Finance, Human Relations, Legal and Human Rights, Prevention of Crime and Disorder, Equality and Diversity, Environmental, Health, Property and Transport

4. Recommendations

The Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Places is asked to:

- (1) agree the appointment of a new Member to the Flood Risk Management Working Group
- (2) note the work undertaken by the working group to scrutinise the development of the Flood Risk Management Strategy,
- (3) note the further work which the working group proposes to undertake to scrutinise the development and implementation of the Flood Risk Management Strategy and to monitor the full range of flood risk management activities carried out within Derbyshire.

Councillor Kath Lauro

CHAIR, IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PLACES



Derbyshire County Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy December 2014

PART 1

Part 1 of Derbyshire's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy has been designed to provide you with general information about flooding and flood risk, who to call and how you can help yourself become more resilient to the impacts of flooding.

Part 2 of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy focuses on the more technical details for understanding flood risk in Derbyshire, our action plan for how we intend to coordinate the management of the future risks and how we can fund our flood risk management functions and initiatives. Part 2 also includes the County Council's level of service.

There is a number of **Guidance Notes** that support the information within the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. They can be viewed on our website www.derbyshire.gov.uk/flooding.

Foreword

Communities within Derbyshire have over the years been subjected to the severe physical, emotional and economic impacts and consequences of flooding. It is now widely believed that flood events are likely to become more frequent as the effects of climate change develop. The consequences of this flooding will likely see greater risks to life, the wider economy and the environment of Derbyshire. Therefore we must look for ways in which we can adapt and become more resilient to flooding. In response to this, Derbyshire County Council has developed our first Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.



This strategy is a key milestone for the County Council; the newly defined Lead Local Flood Authority for Derbyshire. It provides the first opportunity for documenting how flooding will be strategically managed for the County as a whole, integrating the great work already achieved by Government Bodies, Water Companies, the County Council, communities and individuals. This strategy focuses on local flood risk, defined as flooding caused by surface runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses (streams, ditches etc.). However, it is appreciated that it is not the source of flooding that is of importance to those affected, but the devastating effects.

This strategy provides the opportunity to identify ways in which we can help to minimise the damage from flooding and support those affected. It will also aspire to identify and promote opportunities to make Derbyshire more economically resilient to the increasing risk that flooding may present to our county. But this cannot be achieved by the Local Government alone. The complex and interwoven issues involved with flooding make it necessary to build close local partnerships, to tap into local knowledge and harness existing assets within our local community. Local Government is ideally placed to lead on this but it must be supported by all stakeholders due to the rising demand and shrinking resources available. All must work together to align at the local level, all with shared goals and understanding. This strategy provides the opportunity to present an action plan for how this will be done.

The key aim of this strategy is to provide a document that is useful for the residents and businesses of Derbyshire providing support and guidance whilst putting the residents of Derbyshire at the heart of all decision making.

Dean Collins - Cabinet member for Highways, Transport and Infrastructure

Why is this document important to you?

Extreme weather events are predicted to occur more often and we cannot stop flooding from happening. However we can look for ways to minimise the damage and support those affected.

This document forms the framework within which communities can have a greater say in local flood risk management decisions to help improve life for local people. It also provides a common source of information for the residents and businesses of Derbyshire.

1. WHAT IS A LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY?

Derbyshire County Council (DCC) has a legal duty under the Flood and Water Management Act (FWMA, 2010) to produce a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (hereafter referred to as 'the strategy'). The strategy is a document that will set out how the coordination of flood risk will be managed in Derbyshire moving forward, indicating how we will coordinate services from across the County with the key aim of mitigating flood risk.

MONITORING AND REVIEW OF THE STRATEGY

The strategy will be informed and updated by on-going reviews, risk assessments and new flood data. Any changes in flood risk management legislation will also prompt a review of the strategy. The strategy will be monitored by measuring indicators from the Action Plan set out in Part 2 of the strategy.

WHAT WILL BE INCLUDED WITHIN THE STRATEGY?

1	Identification of the Risk Management Authorities (RMAs)	Part 1
2	RMA flood risk management functions (in relation to their area)	Part 2
3	Objectives for managing local flood risk for the County	Part 2
4	Measures proposed to achieve those objectives	Part 2
5	How and when the measures are expected to be implemented	Part 2
6	The costs and benefits of those measures, and how they are to be paid for	Part 2
7	The assessment of local flood risk for the purpose of the strategy	Part 2
8	How and when the strategy is to be reviewed	Part 1
9	How the strategy contributes to the achievement of wider environmental objectives	Part 2

A requirement of this strategy is that it must be consistent with the Environment Agency's National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy and the national objectives which are available to be viewed online

2. FLOODING AND FLOOD RISK

WHAT IS FLOODING?

Flooding is the result of water covering land which is normally dry and can be an important source of nutrients for agriculture and for recharging groundwater sources. Flooding can however result in wide ranging environmental, social and economic impacts when they interact with the human environment. Floods can develop over days as a result of water taking its time to reach a watercourse and overwhelming it. Flash floods generate quickly and with little warning and can be dangerous.

WHAT CAUSES FLOODING?

Natural causes of flooding include:

- Abnormally heavy rainfall and thunderstorms over a short time period,
- Prolonged, extensive rainfall, or
- Rapid snow melt.

Although flooding is a natural phenomenon its impact upon the surrounding environment and population is determined by both human and natural factors. The natural catchment response to rainfall is determined by factors such as steepness of the land, the amount/type of vegetation, and the catchment geology.

It is an increasingly common occurrence that human influences on a catchment affects local flood risk. This can include:

- Loss of undeveloped (greenfield) land and increase in impermeable hard surfaces
- Insufficient or poor maintenance of watercourses and drainage infrastructure (culverts, pipes, bridges, trash screens, storage tanks etc.)
- Rural land management practice (deforestation, compaction, ploughing etc.)

WHAT IS FLOOD RISK?

The majority of Derbyshire is at risk of flooding from one or multiple sources. The location and severity of flooding across the county, particularly flooding caused by locally extreme rainfall, is very difficult to predict. The definition of 'risk' is the combination of the probability (likelihood or chance) of an event happening and the consequences (impact) of it occurring. Floods can happen often or rarely and have little or major consequences. Where the probability and the consequences of flooding are high then an area is considered to be at a high risk of flooding. Areas at high risk of flooding are considered to be a high priority in Derbyshire.

$$\text{Flood Risk} = \text{Probability} \times \text{Consequences}$$

3. WHAT TYPES OF FLOOD RISK ARE THERE?

Floods can arise from a number of different sources with widely varying consequences depending on the magnitude of the storm event and the susceptibility of the receiving community. Following the devastating national floods of summer 2007 the Central Government initiated an independent review into national flood risk management which was led by Sir Michael Pitt. One of the recommendations from Sir Michael Pitt's review was that:

“the role of local authorities should be enhanced so that they take on responsibility for leading the co-ordination of flood risk management in their areas”.

LOCAL SOURCES OF FLOOD RISK

In April 2010 the FWMA implemented a number of recommendations from Sir Michael Pitt's review. The FWMA brings in new roles and responsibilities for local authorities. In particular, the Act defines the role of DCC as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). As the LLFA, DCC have:

“an overarching lead role for coordinating the management of local flood risk across the county of Derbyshire”.

Therefore the **County Council** is responsible for coordinating the management of flood risk from **local sources** as illustrated below.



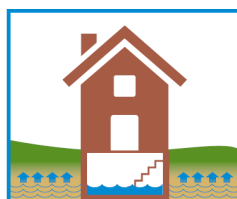
Surface Water

Surface water flooding is caused by the build-up of water on surfaces because it cannot soak into the ground due to it being hard paved, frozen, baked solid etc., or where rainfall exceeds the infiltration capacity of the soil. It often occurs during intense or prolonged rainfall events.



Ordinary watercourses

Ordinary watercourses are any watercourses not designated a Main River that carry a flow of water. Often ordinary watercourses are smaller brooks, drainage channels, ditches, cuts, dykes, sluices, soughs or culverts that may only convey water for a short length of time in a year. Flooding from ordinary watercourses can occur when heavy and/or prolonged rainfall causes the watercourse to break its banks or when blockages occur for example by debris or when infrastructure fails.



Ground Water

Groundwater flooding occurs when the water table (the water level below ground) rises above the ground surface. During periods of heavy and prolonged rainfall, the water level in the ground may rise to such an extent that it floods into property basements, or the emergence of groundwater at the surface (can often be a natural spring) may cause damage to properties and infrastructure. Some areas are known to be more prone to groundwater flooding than others due to the naturally high level of the water table in these areas.

Due to the historic mining and mineral extraction operations in Derbyshire, networks of old stone soughs (drainage channels) exist beneath the grounds surface in parts of Derbyshire. At present DCC has very limited knowledge of the location, alignment and impacts of these soughs on flood risk. Soughs are known to be abundant in the Derbyshire Dales District and High Peak Borough areas of Derbyshire.

For further guidance on soughs please contact the FRM team.



Highway Water

Highway flooding (non-trunk roads) is the accumulation of surface water on the adopted Highway network. Highway flooding may be caused by blockages or capacity issues in highway drainage systems, or simply by sheer volume of rain water falling on the carriageway, which the existing drainage network cannot cope with. The **County Council's Highways Division** has the responsibility to manage flood risk on the county's non-trunk roads.

The **District/Borough Councils** provide assistance with local flooding issues and work collaboratively with DCC's FRM team.

Do you know of a County Council asset that needs cleansing?

Please contact Call Derbyshire on 01629 533190

OTHER SOURCES OF FLOOD RISK



Main Rivers

Main Rivers are larger rivers that can span several counties but also include some smaller watercourses (those which are deemed to require specialist management). DEFRA have set the criteria for defining these rivers as Main Rivers in England and Wales.

The **Environment Agency** is responsible for the management of flood risk from Main Rivers.



Coastal Flooding

Coastal flooding occurs when normally dry low-lying land is flooded by sea water.

The **Environment Agency** is responsible for the management of flood risk from the coast.



Sewer Water

Sewer flooding can occur when large volumes of rainwater enter the public sewer system or when the public sewer system becomes blocked.

Water companies are responsible for managing the risk of flooding from sewers and water mains.

Flooding from **private sewers** is the responsibility of the land owner.



Reservoir Flooding

Reservoir flooding occurs when a reservoir fails or breaches resulting in this water escaping and flooding on to the adjacent land and or properties. Reservoirs are artificially created ponds or lakes that are usually formed by building a dam (wall), across a river or watercourse.

The **Environment Agency** is responsible for managing flood risk from reservoirs.

DCC's Emergency Planning Division is responsible for developing emergency plans for reservoir flooding for the County. The Emergency Planning team work closely with emergency services, reservoir operators and the Environment Agency to develop these plans.



Canal Flooding

Canal flooding can be as a result of excessive surface water running off or discharging to an artificially created waterway. The water levels within canals can vary (although not as much as rivers) due to many factors including proximity to controlled/uncontrolled inflows, lock usage etc. The relevant **Navigating Authority** (Canal and River Trust or DCC) are responsible for looking after the canal network across Derbyshire.



Highway Water

Highway flooding (trunk roads) is the accumulation of surface water on the strategic road network.

The responsibility for flooding to major trunk roads (motorways and some major A Roads) falls within the duties of the **Highways Agency**.

4. **WHO HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO MANAGE FLOOD RISK?**

Section 3 illustrates who is responsible for managing the different sources of flood risk. The Pitt Review recommended that the LLFA bring together all relevant bodies, known as Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) to manage flood risk. Legislation that governs the roles and responsibilities of RMAs for Derbyshire can be found in the **Legislation Guidance Notes**. No single body has the means to reduce all sources of flooding however everyone has a part to play in effective flood risk management for the County as illustrated in Figure 1.

For more information regarding the roles and responsibilities for coordinating flood risk please refer to the **Roles and Responsibilities Guidance Notes** and relevant information contained within **Part 2 of the strategy**.

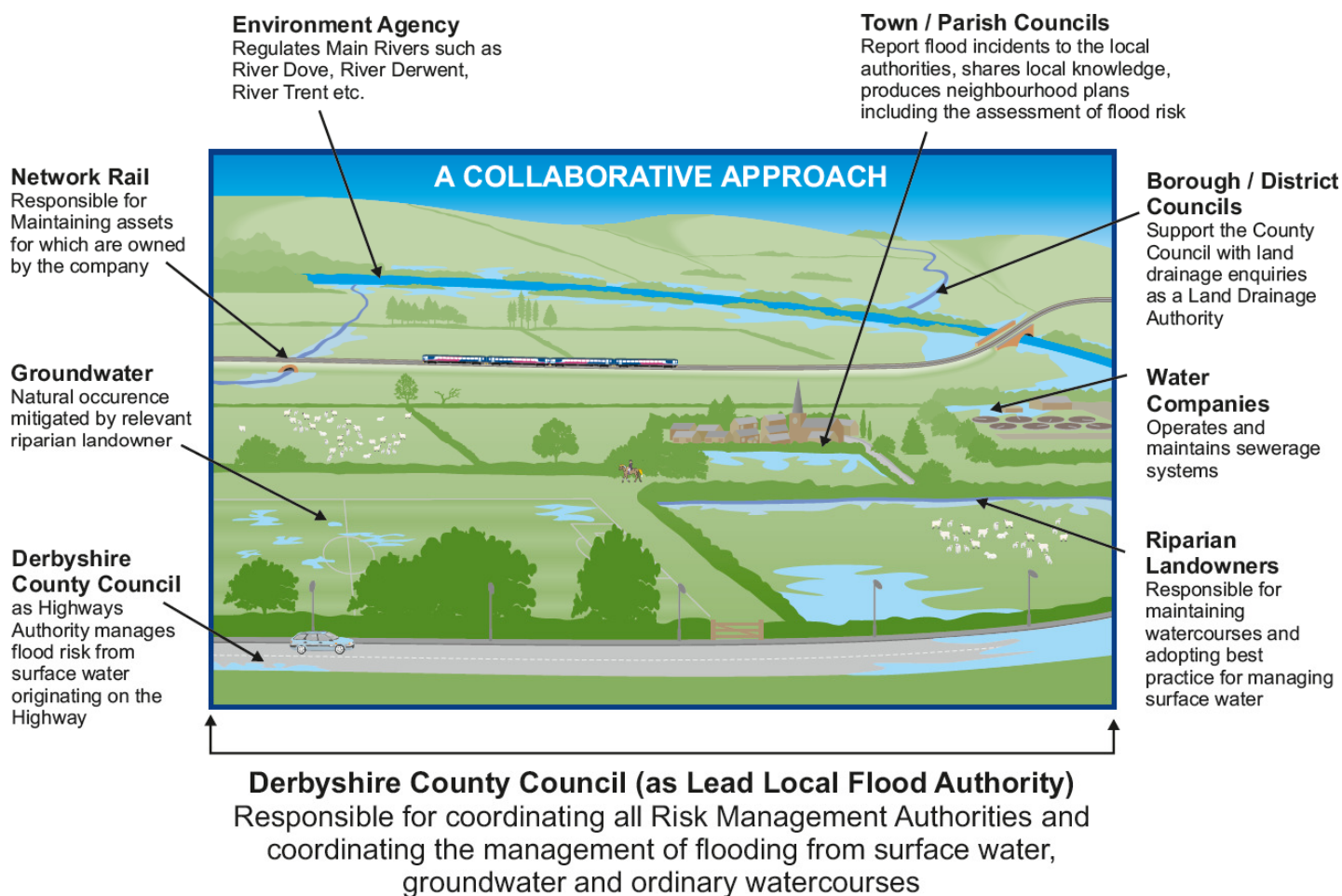


Figure 1: A collaborative approach to flood risk management

5. WHO TO CALL?

In the event of an emergency you should always call the police, ambulance or fire brigade. The County Council also provide an emergency planning service that can also assist during an emergency flood event. The emergency planning team can be contacted on **(01629) 538364** or **emergency.planning@derbyshire.gov.uk**.

Risk Management Authority	Query	Contact Details
Derbyshire County Council	Surface water, groundwater, ordinary watercourse flooding	Flood.team@derbyshire.gov.uk 01629 538563*
Derbyshire County Council	Highway water (non-trunk roads)	etenetmanadmin@derbyshire.gov.uk 01629 533190
Environment Agency	Main River, reservoir and coastal flooding	enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk 03708 506 506
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severn Trent Water Yorkshire Water United Utilities 	Sewer Flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> STW - 0800 783 4444 YW - 0345 124 24 24 UU - 0345 672 3723
Highways Agency	Highway Water (trunk roads)	ha_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk 0300 123 5000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amber Valley Borough Bolsover District Chesterfield Borough Derbyshire Dales District Erewash Borough High Peak Borough North East Derbyshire District Council South Derbyshire District 	Planning enquiry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AV - (01773) 570222 B – (01246) 242424 C – (01246) 345345 DD – (01629) 761100 E – (0115) 907 2244 HP – (01298) 28400 NED – (01246) 231111 SD – (01283) 595795
<p>Although this is a living document the above numbers may be subject to change</p> <p>*Please be aware that the FRM team do not provide a reactive service during a flood event.</p>		

For information on the level of service that can be provided by the County Council for reported flood incidents please refer to [Part 2 of the strategy](#). Figure 2 illustrates the coordinated approach to managing different sources of flood risk.

Flood Reporting

For further details on how to report a flooding incident please refer to the Flood Reporting and Enquires Investigation Guidance Notes

It is important that you report any flooding to the **correct body**.

For example: if you suffer from sewer flooding you should report this to the water company so that this is formally recorded. Water companies undertake significant amounts of work based on recorded incidents of sewer flooding. If you don't inform them, then your sewer flooding may go unrecorded meaning that your area may be less likely to receive investment. Due to data protection reasons there are significant constraints for the DCC's FRM team or even a neighbour to report your sewer flooding problem on your behalf.

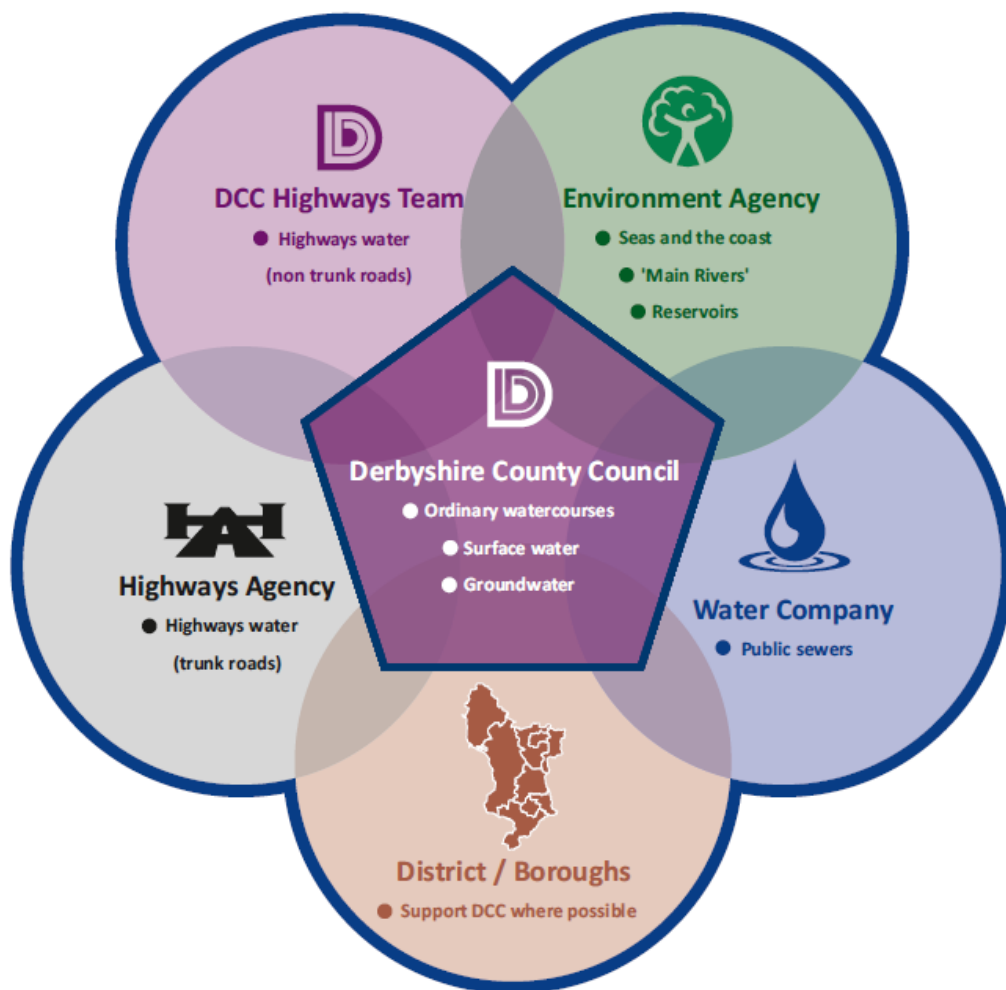


Figure 2: Key Risk Management Authorities

6. YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES FOR FLOOD MANAGEMENT

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY OWNERS/BUSINESSES

Whilst there are a number of organisations and RMAs who have a responsibility for the management of the different sources of flooding an individual property owner or business still has the responsibility to protect their property, where appropriate, taking measures to protect their property from flooding. Flooding is a natural process, therefore there may be some instances where flooding still occurs despite all stakeholders meeting their responsibilities and therefore it is important that business/property owners or residents take steps to ensure that their property and contents are protected.

RIPARIAN LANDOWNERS

A riparian landowner is defined as someone who owns land or property next to or over a river, stream, ditch or culvert/pipe that forms part of a watercourse. The riparian landowner is responsible for the section of watercourse which flows through their land. If a land boundary is defined next to a watercourse it is assumed that the landowner owns the land up to the centre of the watercourse, unless it is owned by someone else.

Figure 3 illustrates how a length of watercourse can have several riparian landowners, each responsible for a section of a watercourse.

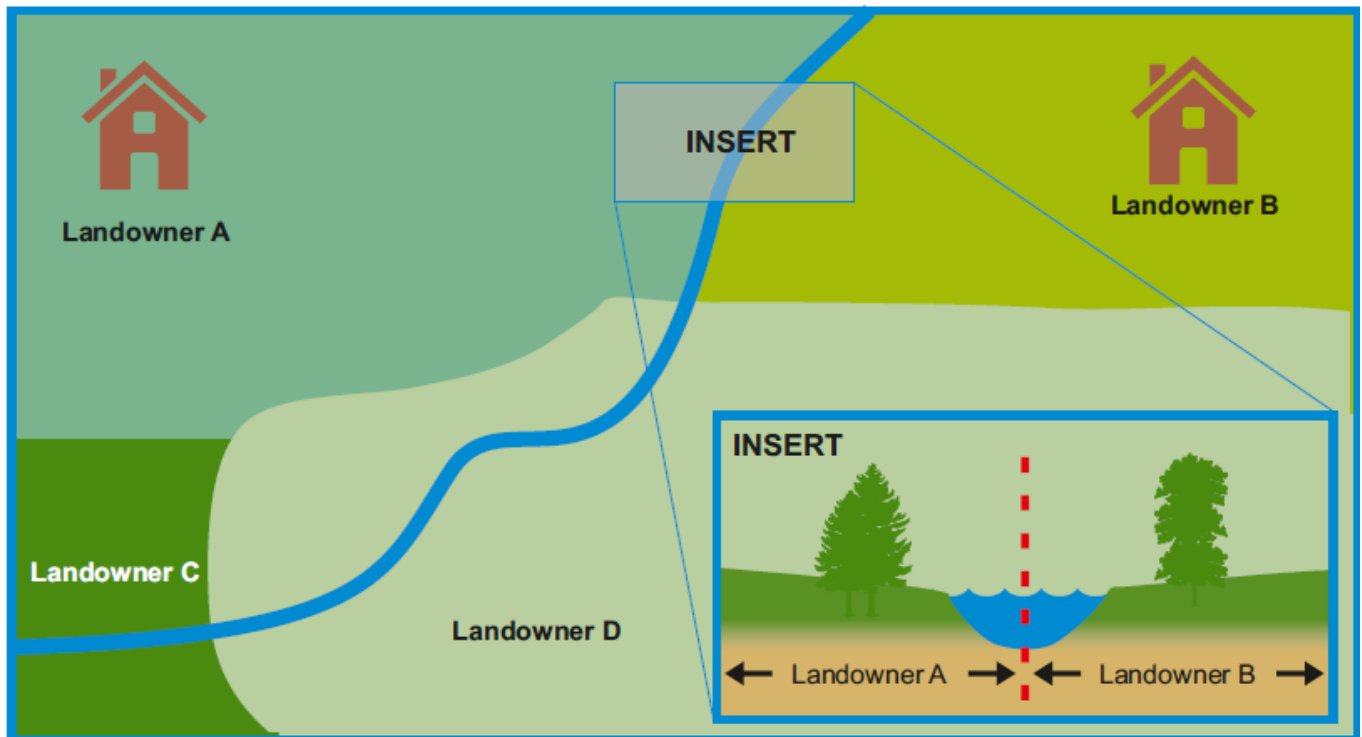


Figure 3: Illustration of riparian landownership

Under the Land Drainage Act (1991) riparian landowners have a legal responsibility to maintain the free passage of flow through the section of watercourse that flows through their land. Any works to an ordinary watercourse, even if it is situated in land that you own may require consent from DCC as the lead consent authoriser under the Land Drainage Act (1991). For more information regarding riparian landownership and the Consenting process please refer to the [Riparian Landownership Guidance Notes](#) and [Land Drainage Consent Guidance Notes](#).

Do you wish to undertake any works within or in close proximity to an ordinary watercourse?

Please call a member of the FRM team who can provide advice and guidance to ensure that you are working within the legalities of the Land Drainage Act, 1991.

7. INCREASING RESILIENCE

It is impossible to completely flood-proof a property but there are many things that can be done to reduce the damage of flooding. For further information please refer to the [Before, during and after a flood Guidance Notes](#).

HOW DO I FIND OUT IF I AM AT RISK OF FLOODING?

Firstly it is worth checking whether you are at risk of flooding. You can check online for whether you are at risk of fluvial 'Main River' flooding or surface water flooding using the Environment Agency's 'What's in your backyard'¹ facility. For other sources you can contact the relevant organisation directly requesting any historical or predicted flood related information. For the different sources of flood risk and who to call please refer to earlier sections of the strategy. Please also refer to our [Groundwater and Surface Water Guidance Notes](#) for more information.

PREPARATION FOR FLOODING

Even if you think your home or business is many miles from the nearest watercourse and therefore not directly at risk from river flooding you could still be affected by surface water or groundwater flooding. The Environment Agency offers guidance for householders and small businesses '[Prepare your property for flooding](#)'² available online. The Environment Agency also offers '[A guide to preparing your business for flooding](#)'³ also available online. Preparatory steps taken before flooding occurs or is threatened have been shown to be far more effective and successful as a means of protecting against flooding. If your home or business is flooded it can be costly, not just in terms of money and time but also emotionally.

For further [guidance on how to reduce the impact of flooding from groundwater](#)⁴ please refer to guidance produced by the EA and the Local Government Association. For further guidance on how to prepare for/protect yourself from sewer flooding please contact your relevant water company. There is also guidance material available online for [Yorkshire Water](#)⁵, [Severn Trent Water](#)⁶ and [United Utilities](#)⁷.

Table 1 illustrates preparation techniques that can be employed to help you become more resilient to the impacts of flooding.

1 <http://apps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby>

2 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sandbags-how-to-use-them-to-prepare-for-a-flood>






3 https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/292937/LIT_5284_ab06c2.pdf

4 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flooding-from-groundwater>

5 <http://www.yorkshirewater.com/your-water-services/flooding-advice.aspx>

6 <http://www.stwater.co.uk/households/waste-water-and-sewers/sewer-flooding>

7 <http://www.unitedutilities.com/been-flooded.aspx>

	<p>Sandbags, if laid correctly, offer some (short term) protection against flood water or can divert water away. The EA have produced guidance for 'How to use sandbags properly for flood protection'⁸ which is available online. The County Council's current policy for sandbags⁹ can also be found on Derbyshire County Councils website or a hard copy provided on request.</p>
	<p>There are many alternative products to sandbags that may be easier to transport (lighter). These types of products have many advantages and/or disadvantages in comparison to using sandbags. More information in relation one of the alternative products can be obtained in Flood Sax Guidance Notes.</p>
	<p>There are a number of products available on the market for property level protection, all of which offer more advanced protection than traditional sandbags. The National Flood Forum¹⁰ offers an independent directory of flood protection products and services as well as a wealth of other information and guidance.</p>
	<p>An individual property/business flood plan may include the location of gas taps or electricity supply, emergency numbers, information including emergency responders and your insurance company and preparation of emergency supplies such as food etc. For guidance for how to complete an individual property/householder flood plan please contact the Environment Agency or speak to a member of the FRM team.</p>
	<p>The Environment Agency offer a flood warning service to subscribers and a live flood warning map (updated every 15 minutes online) for large parts of the country, particularly those areas affected by flooding from Main Rivers. You can sign up to the Environment Agency's Flood Warning Service¹¹ online or telephone 0345 988 1188.</p>
<p>Table 1: Guidance for helping you become more resilient to flooding</p>	

8. INCREASING RESILIENCE – DEVELOPING STRONGER RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE COMMUNITY

Effective communication is key to promote awareness of flood risk management issues, promoting better relations between the County Council and the local communities, empowering localism and encouraging people to take action before, during and after a flood event.

DCC are committed to providing a valuable and effective public service and recognise that local communities can offer a wide range of perspectives and 'a local understanding'. DCC recognise the importance of local people for the management of local flood risk and promotion of potential mitigation measures and/or solutions. DCC aims to focus on the needs of the

⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sandbags-how-to-use-them-to-prepare-for-a-flood>

⁹ http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/environment/flooding/emergency_preparedness/resilience_and_sandbags/default.asp

¹⁰ <http://www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk/>

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>

individuals, communities and businesses of Derbyshire, including them at the heart of decision making and the management of risk.

A key objective for this strategy is to build relationships and trust at the local level to ensure that people are well informed and feel supported about flood risk management services. This will be achieved by:

- Increasing awareness via public consultations events, newsletters and online resources.
- Actively encouraging all to get involved and be proactive.
- Listening to local concerns.
- Liaising and engaging with locals with any proposed mitigation measures.
- Encouraging discussion and debate and progress towards a collective action plan.

As with all aspects of the work of the FRM team our priority for targeting communication will be aimed at those who are most risk. Please refer to the [Communication Strategy Guidance Notes](#) for further details.

FLOOD FAIRS AND EVENING MEETINGS

A successful way of ensuring that all members of a local community can have a say, report their side of the story and be heard by members of the FRM team or other RMAs is via flood fairs and or evening meetings. A flood fair or evening meeting offers the opportunity to inform the communities of the FRM team's current understanding of the flood risk to that community and offers the community the chance to inform or confirm that understanding. It also gives the opportunity for the FRM team to highlight any other sources of flood risk that a community may not already be aware of and vice versa. A flood fair or public meeting may have representation from a number of RMAs or charitable organisations such as the National Flood Forum¹². DCC have arranged and held a number of flood fairs and public meetings often after a flood event to offer help, support and guidance. Members of the FRM team also regularly attend public meetings supporting Parish Councils or the local community presenting a variety of information from flood risks and relevant RMAs to flood warden schemes.

Is your community at risk of flooding? Do you want to get involved in the discussion of flooding at a local level?

Find out if your local area has a flood action group - Contact DCC's FRM team for more information.

¹² A national charity dedicated to supporting and representing communities and individuals at risk of flooding (www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk)

FLOOD WARDEN SCHEMES

DCC's FRM team has begun to implement 'Flood Warden Schemes' across the County (in particular those areas that have been affected by flooding), working closely with Town/Parish Councils and local communities. The main aim of the Flood Warden Schemes is to provide the members of communities (known to be at a flood risk) with appropriate resilience equipment (such as a portable storage unit, sandbags, personal protective equipment etc) and skills to be able to help mitigate the impacts of flooding before the emergency services or any other emergency responder/RMA can attend. The County Council will work with the Town/Parish Council and local community to appoint 'Flood Wardens' to act as local contacts to give access to the resources and develop a Community Flood Plan for the community. For more information regarding Flood Warden Schemes or a community flood plan then please refer to [Flood Warden Schemes Guidance Notes](#).

PUBLIC SITE VISITS

Members of the FRM team undertake site visits for the majority of reported flooding concerns or land drainage enquiries. Public meetings are a good opportunity for the FRM team to obtain local knowledge and in turn provide guidance for personal resilience, effective land management, stakeholder responsibilities etc., whilst also passing on information about the wider drainage catchment. For information regarding level of service please refer to [Part 2 of the strategy](#).

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Flood Action Groups

Many communities affected by flooding in Derbyshire have already set up Flood Action Groups. These groups are an effective way for affected residents to provide a link between the RMAs and the wider community. To find out whether your community already has a flood action group or to obtain guidance of how to set one up please contact the FRM team.

Community Level Maintenance

Some communities in Derbyshire have adopted informal arrangements for members of the community to be proactive and check assets in the event of a severe weather warning. These arrangements can be very productive at a local level and reap great benefits for areas that suffer regularly or in times when the demand for support/response outweighs the available resource.

Derbyshire Case Study: Alfreton Flood Action Group

A community driven group within the area of Alfreton have experienced recurrent internal flooding from fluvial, surface water and sewer sources. In response to the flooding, residents formed the Alfreton Flood Action Group to provide a support group mechanism.



One of the key factors to the success of the group was the introduction of regular quarterly meetings which enabled DCC and Severn Trent Water (STW) to update the residents on the progress towards investigating the sources of flooding, identifying potential mitigation options and identifying possible funding opportunities.

The first success for the Alfreton Flood Forum was an alleviation scheme carried out by STW to upsize parts of the local combined sewer network to lower the risk of sewer flooding. DCC in close liaison with the Alfreton Flood Forum looked towards identifying possible options to reduce flood risk to the properties from the local ordinary watercourse. To assist in the funding of the project, DCC submitted a bid to obtain national flood management funding which was granted/secured in 2014.

Derbyshire Case Study: Community Initiatives

One of Derbyshire's rural communities has a long history of suffering from flooding. The village is surrounded by steep sided topography which drains the valley towards the village. During heavy rain events this results in large amounts of surface water draining quickly towards the village overwhelming the drainage infrastructure.



DCC's Highways team are working closely with the Parish Council to try to manage the risks to the community from the Highway drainage network. Every gully in the County is cleansed once a year however the Highways team do attempt to check identified critical assets in the event of a severe weather warning as well as providing assistance where they can after an event. There are cases however when the Highways team are unable to do so.

This local community are extremely proactive in trying to help themselves in the event of a severe weather warning and help to monitor the Highway drainage network. Community members remove debris (such as excessive pine needles) at certain times of the year to assist the drainage network to help keep the water off the road and preventing it potentially running into local buildings. The Parish Council has developed close links with the relevant Risk Management Authorities

9. INCREASING RESILIENCE – WORKING WITH LANDOWNERS AND DEVELOPERS

Both urban and rural landowners are required to work together across entire catchments to find solutions for flood risk management. A balanced approach for flood risk management is required that looks at:

- Reducing rural runoff by improving soil infiltration and increasing water interception;
- Reducing urban runoff through Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS); and

- Looking for opportunities for storing water strategically.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

DCC's FRM team are not currently a statutory consultee to the planning process. However DCC's FRM team are working with the Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) (District/Borough Authorities) to ensure that any proposed development in Derbyshire takes into account flood risk and utilises sustainable drainage techniques. For more information about planning and development please refer to [Part 2 of the strategy](#).

LAND MANAGEMENT

Large parts of Derbyshire are categorised as rural farmland. Farmers are key for helping to mitigate flood risk for the County as often large amounts of farmland drain towards urban communities. Farmland is a huge asset and requires careful management so as not to cause or exacerbate flooding for the upstream/downstream community or have an economic impact on the farmers' livelihood.

The National Farmers Union (NFU) are actively campaigning to ensure that agriculture is properly valued in flood risk management and rural flooding is managed effectively. The NFU are also working to make continued improvements in soil management. For example, farmers are participating in Catchment Sensitive Farming and other soil-related schemes.

DCC will continue to work closely with landowners, including farmers to ensure that all views are taken into account for managing flood risk across the County.

For guidance about how you can manage your land more effectively to help reduce flooding please refer to the [Land Management Guidance Notes](#).

Part 2 of the strategy provides more detailed technical information about understanding flood risk in Derbyshire and how we intend to manage the future risks.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Term	Definition
Critical asset	A structure or feature that is considered to have a significant effect on a flood risk in its area
DCC	Derbyshire County Council
DEFRA	Department For Environment, Food And Rural Affairs
EA	Environment Agency
EU	European Union
Flood Warden Scheme	An initiative to provide a community with equipment, skills and training to enable them to be more resilient to flooding
FRM	Flood Risk Management
FWMA	Flood and Water Management Act
LFRMS	Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
LLFA	Lead Local Flood Authority
Local sources of flooding	Flooding from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses
LPA	Local Planning Authorities (District/Borough Councils)
NFU	National Farmers Union
Pitt Review	An independent review of the summer 2007 floods undertaken by Sir Michael Pitt
Resilience	The capacity to recover more effectively from difficulties
RMA	Risk Management Authority
Soughs	An underground channel for draining water from a mine
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
STW	Severn Trent Water